

## ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The claims of this application have been rejected as being anticipated by Thompson (US 2005/0214350 A1) under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or as being obvious over Thompson in combination with Brustad et al. (US 2005/0113936 A1) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. We respectfully traverse.

The reference Thompson has a filing date of **March 29, 2004**. This is the earliest date the reference is available. 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Enclosed herewith is a certified translation of applicants' priority application, German application 20 2004 002 438.1. The priority application was filed on **February 16, 2004**.

Since applicants' claim for priority is perfected, the reference Thompson is not available as prior art. The claims are thus allowable over the art of record. The allowance of the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Werner H. Stemer/

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